



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Amendment

LCO No. 8725

HB0668508725HD0

Offered by:

REP. FOX, 146th Dist.

SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

REP. GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6685

File No. 736

Cal. No. 515

***"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY LEGAL
DISPUTES INVOLVING THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF MINOR
CHILDREN."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
4 to study (1) the role of a guardian ad litem and the attorney for a minor
5 child in any action involving parenting responsibilities and the
6 custody and care of a child, (2) the extent of noncompliance with the
7 provisions of subdivision (6) of subsection (c) of section 46b-56 of the
8 general statutes and the role of the court in enforcing compliance with
9 said subdivision, and (3) whether the state should adopt a
10 presumption that shared custody is in the best interest of a minor child
11 in any action involving the custody, care and upbringing of a child.
12 Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of state
13 statutes applicable to an action involving the custody, care and
14 upbringing of a child, and the costs associated with contested divorce
15 actions, including, but not limited to, expert witness fees and

16 attorneys' fees including the fees of guardians ad litem and attorneys
17 for the minor children. Such study may include recommendations for
18 legislation on matters studied by the task force.

19 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

20 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
21 who shall be a practicing attorney with significant experience in the
22 handling of child custody matters in state courts;

23 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
24 shall be a practicing attorney with not less than ten years' experience
25 serving as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for the minor child in
26 child custody matters in state courts;

27 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
28 Representatives, who shall be a licensed mental health professional
29 with expertise in child custody forensic evaluations;

30 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
31 an employee of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
32 Department;

33 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
34 Representatives, who shall be a mental health professional with
35 expertise in working with family systems;

36 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall
37 have personal or professional experience in matters involving
38 allegations of one parent engaging in a persistent pattern of
39 denigrating the other parent in the presence of a minor child in order
40 to negatively influence the child's perception of the parent and alienate
41 the child's affections for the parent, made in the context of a
42 proceeding involving the custody, care and upbringing of a minor
43 child;

44 (7) Two jointly appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing

45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
46 relating to the judiciary, one of whom shall be a member of said joint
47 standing committee, and one of whom shall be a practicing attorney
48 with significant experience in the ethical obligations involving child
49 custody cases; and

50 (8) Two jointly appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing
51 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
52 relating to children, one of whom shall be a member of said joint
53 standing committee.

54 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1)
55 to (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
56 the General Assembly.

57 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
58 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
59 filled by the appointing authority.

60 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
61 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
62 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
63 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
64 later than forty-five days after the effective date of this section.

65 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
66 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
67 judiciary shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

68 (g) Not later than February 1, 2014, the task force shall submit a
69 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
70 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
71 relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section
72 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
73 that it submits such report or February 1, 2014, whichever is later."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section